

JOSEPH STOPER AND HIS FAMILY

By John Mathews

In Bulletin 285 (page 7) it is reported that after Joseph Sloper died, his two sons, Percy and Eustace, took over the business of J. Sloper & Co. Further, in Bulletins 264 and 266, Percy Sloper was said to have died in the early 1930s. From St Catherine's House index of deaths, there is an entry for a Percy Sloper having died in the March quarter of 1933 at the age of 76 years, at Kensington. This would give his year of birth as 1856 or 1857.

A search of "The Times" of London revealed Percy's death notice in the edition of Tuesday, March 21, 1933, which read:

"On March 19, 1933, at 29, Chepstow Villas, W11, PERCY SLOPER, fourth son of the late Joseph Sloper and Sarah Lavell Sloper, in his 77th year. Service at St.Peter's Church, Kensington Park Road, tomorrow (Wednesday) at 11.30am. No flowers, by request, except Haig Poppies, or preferably a donation sent to Lord Robert's Memorial Workshops. "

In "The Times" of Thursday, May 4 1933, the Will of Percy Sloper was detailed under the heading "GIFTS TO CHARITY". The entry read:

"Mr Percy Sloper, of Kensington, and of Budge Row, EC, who died on March 19, aged 76, left £15,663, with net personalty £7,398. He left:- £100 to the Churchwardens of St.Peter's, Bayswater, for parish purposes, £100 to the Benevolent Fund of the British Lodge No.8, and the ultimate residue of the property between the Church Army, the Cardiff Sailors' and Soldiers' Rests, the Royal Sailors' Rests, Portsmouth, Dr.Barnardo's Homes, St.Giles' Christian Mission, the British Legion, the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Lord Roberts' Memorial Workshops, Pepworth Village Settlement, the Shaftesbury Society, John Groom's Cripplegate, the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Benevolent Society, the Church

Pastoral Aid Society, the Freemasons' Hospital, the Hostel of God, Clapham Common, the British Home & Hospital for Incurables, and the Waifs' and Strays' Society, Kennington."

Probable children of Joseph Sloper (from St Catherine's House index of Births, Deaths & Marriages). This is based on Percy and Eustace being known sons of Joseph, and then searching backwards until three sons prior to Percy had been found.

Horace	December quarter 1844	at Marylebone
Ellen	September quarter 1846	at Marylebone
Alice	March quarter 1849	at Marylebone
John	December quarter 1850	at Marylebone
George	December quarter 1852	at Marylebone
Kate	December quarter 1854	at Marylebone
Percy	September quarter 1856	at Marylebone
Eustace	June quarter 1860	at Marylebone

It is interesting to note that the eldest of these sons is "Horace". There is an item in the Sloper workbooks showing a postal card with specifications for a perforator, which would puncture "M.B./&C^o." in the corner where the pre-printed stamp would be. The instructions accompanying the card (pasted in the book) are addressed to "Dear Horace", dated in 1869, and signed by (what looks like) Joseph Sloper. I have heard a suggestion that this Horace was Joseph's brother - perhaps in view of the date of birth of Horace in 1844, the addressee of the correspondence about the card may have been Joseph's eldest son, then nearly 25 years of age.

Joseph Sloper died on June 18, 1890, and his death notice was reported in Bulletin 291 (page 9). His wife, Sarah Lavell Sloper, died on May 27, 1892, and her death was reported in "The Times" of Monday, May 30, 1892, as:

"On the 27th inst, at Lancaster Road, Bayswater, SARAH LAVELL, widow of JOSEPH SLOPER. Indian and Colonial papers, please copy. No cards."

Thus, both Joseph Sloper and his wife Sarah were still alive at the time of the 1881 Census of England, and presumably living in London. A search of this census shows the following inhabitants of 110 Ledbury Road, Paddington:

"Sarah Sloper, head of house, age 65 years, of independent means, born at Stoke Newington. Ellen Sloper, daughter of Sarah, aged 33 years, of independent means, born at Marylebone."

Both these women are the right age to be Joseph's wife and daughter respectively, based on the records shown above. But finding a match for 68-year-old Joseph in this census proved an impossible task. As reported in Bulletin 291, living at 41 St.Julian's (Rd), Willesden (which, thanks to GB Perfin Society member Dilwyn Chambers, I now know is within easy walking distance of the Tower Royal Works at Blackburn Road, west Hampstead), were a Joseph Sloper, age 40 years, no occupation given, born in Wiltshire, his daughter Kate, aged 8 years, and his sons Percy and Eustace, aged 6 and 3 respectively, all three children born in London. These three children are in the right order and at the correct spacing of age to be "our" Joseph's children - BUT all are 18 years too young! This Joseph, either widowed or separated, is also too young, by 28 years. Significantly, the St.Catherine's House index of births does not show children of these names born in England in the 1870s, nor a Joseph Sloper born in Wiltshire in the early 1840s. The coincidence of names and relative ages is rather strong nonetheless. This household also showed a living-in 20-year-old servant girl, Ann Birdseye.

In the Birth, Death and Marriage indexes, there are other events recorded for the family name "Sloper" in the Marylebone district. Some of these could be relatives of Joseph Sloper, as it was not a particularly frequently-occurring name in that area.

In the London Directory for 1842, a Thomas Sloper, stationer and printer, is listed at 19 High Street, Marylebone. In 1846, Thomas is not listed, but there is a listing for Joseph Sloper, painter and paperhanger, at 106 High Street, Marylebone! (This Joseph Sloper later became the patentee of the perforating process.) Could it be that these two were related, and that

bachelor Joseph may have been living with Thomas at number 19 in 1842 prior to his marriage and moved into number 106 after his marriage? The year 1842 or 1843 is quite possible for Joseph's marriage if Horace was his eldest child, born in 1844. A Thomas Sloper was married at Marylebone in the December quarter of 1840.

Unfortunately, gaps in International Genealogical Index records do not allow confirmation of whether Joseph Sloper born in Wiltshire about 1812/1813 had a brother Thomas. Most of the Sloper families in the early 19th century seemed to be living around the Devizes/Pewsey/Marlborough area.

[The St.Catherine's House indexes were viewed on microfiche in the National Library of Australia, Canberra, and the International Genealogical Index and 1881 Census records were viewed at the Family History Centre of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Canberra]

* * * * *

MEMBERS' QUERIES

JOHN MARRINER has found a 1d Red - Plate 191 - with what looks like the last part of an overlapping oval and rectangle followed by "&Co..". Our Catalogue Editor has been canvassed for his opinion and his comment is "I haven't a clue"! There are too many blind holes for it to photocopy so this drawing is John's approximation of the actual holes and what he believes would be the missing holes of the overlapping oval and rectangle. The pins of the "&Co.." are 13,11,6 and 5½,6½,3 mm high.

